

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the detailed remarks and analysis. Claims 1, and 3-14 remain pending. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 10 include amendments to clarify that the subject of the claims is a fluid connection assembly for use in applications where a fluid supply pipe extends through an opening in a panel or wall. Claims 1 and 10 now comply with the requirements of 35 USC §112.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to the claims based on Ford (U.S. 1,820,656). Ford discloses a mounting scheme for mounting a meter to a service line and does not include all of the elements required by the claims. Instead, the device disclosed by Ford operates to press the ends 11 and 12 against spaced apart ends of a pipe. As appreciated, the Examiner has read certain features of the Ford reference as meeting some of the claimed features. However, many features required by the claims are simply not present.

Claim 1 requires a support member receivable onto a fluid supply pipe that includes a recess ending in a face followed by a sleeve with an opening for receiving the fluid supply pipe. Claim 10 requires that the support include a recess receivable within an opening for the supply pipe and a plate extending radially from the recess. The element 21 in the Ford reference was read as the required support member. However, element 21 refers to fingers of a flange 20 for a sleeve 13. This is not a support, and certainly cannot meet the limitations required of the support recited in both claims 1 and 10. Additionally, element 16 is read as the claimed threaded member. However element 16 is merely the hex end of the threaded sleeve 13 (Column 1, lines 25-35).

Further, claims 1 and 10 recite specific features of the support plate that are simply not present in element 21, or any other element disclosed in the Ford device. Accordingly, claims 1 and 10 cannot be anticipated by the Ford reference. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Additionally, the dependent claims also require features that are not disclosed nor suggested by the Ford reference. For example, claims 6 and 11 requires a rotatable sleeve that holds a threaded member in a desired axial position. Element 13 of Ford has been read as the claimed sleeve. However, element 13 is a threaded sleeve that engages threads on the pipe end 12 and therefore does not hold member rotatable relative to it in a desired axial position. Claim 8 requires that the threaded member include an inwardly extending flange that corresponds to the flange on the sleeve. The feature is not shown by the Ford reference.

Claims 4 and 9 were rejected as being obvious over Ford, but recited features that are simply not suggested by anything disclosed in the Ford reference. Claim 4 requires a cover to engage and conceal the connection assembly. There is no cover disclosed in Ford. Further, the Ford reference discloses a connection on each side of a meter. An meter that is disposed external to a building or within a pipe line is not commonly supplied with a cover that engages the connection assembly.

Further, claims 4 and 9 depend from allowable base claims and are therefore also allowable.

No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dated: January 14, 2009